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Volume 3, Number 2

FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINERS



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TEL.: (613) 830-4750; FAX: (613) 830-9654; EMAIL: ijfde@hypernet.on.ca

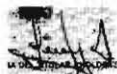
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The Cover



Passports are subjected to many forms of alteration for the purposes of misrepresentation. An important passport identification feature is the bearer signature panel. If there is no physical evidence of panel substitution or alteration of this area then a signature comparison may be requested for the purpose of authentication. However, unlike other questioned signature cases, it has been our experience at the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service Laboratory to find the forged or simulated signatures, not on the passport signature panel as expected, but rather in the handwriting exemplars requested for comparison (p. 137).

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This is a peer reviewed journal supporting mainstream forensic document examiners - experts, who are either employed privately or with government forensic laboratories, and who have completed document training programs which meet the standards recognized as a basis for certification by the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners and the Forensic Science Society.

The Journal is devoted to the publication of research articles, technical reports and case studies, on various subjects of forensic document examination including, but not limited to, handwriting, mechanical printing devices (typewriters, computer printers, photocopiers), security printed documents (travel documents, lottery tickets, currency and other fiduciary instruments), plastic cards, altered documents, charred and/or water soaked documents, and the chemical analysis of media used in the preparation of documents (ie, inks, paper, correction fluids, toners, adhesives, etc.).

Research articles submitted by experts, other than document examiners, on subjects of interest relating to document examination, such as jurisprudence, image enhancement, and photography, will also be published in this Journal periodically upon acceptance by the editorial board.

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ERRATA

Editor Plagiarizes Article

In preparing each issue of the IJFDE a template of the prior issue is used as a guide, entering new information and deleting the old. On page 35 of Volume 3, Number 1 of the Jan/Mar issue of the IJFDE, under the sub-heading "References", my name appears instead of that of Mr. McClarys', the author of the article titled "*A Study of Baseline Alignment in Signatures and Handwritten Sentences*". This was a terrible and unfortunate oversight on my part, which only came to my attention upon preparing the layout of this current issue. While this error is restricted to this section only and does not appear in the title or in the footnotes, I was still very embarrassed by its occurrence and can only add that all previous errors pale in comparison to this gaff. I have not heard from Mr. McClary nor spoke to him on this matter but would extend my apologies at this time for this terrible mistake.

Ink Aging: Perspectives on Standardization

Page 79 of Volume 3, Number 1, abstract of c/n paper by T. Hicks, A. Khanmy and P. Margot. Paragraph 3 should read "From these results, it is not currently possible ..."

Determining Nationality From Written Speech: A Preliminary Report

Please add two references to the c/n article, Volume 2, Number 4, p. 400:

- [1] Levinson, J., "Questioned Document Examination of Foreign Scripts", *Forensic Science International*, Vol. 22, 1983, pp. 249-252.
- [2] Hagag, Isaac, "Comparison of Texts in Languages with Different Alphabets", *International Criminal Police Review*, No. 221, October 1968, pp. 221-228.

Additional corrections:

Page 312 change "middle" to "Middle".

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

San Francisco, CA USA 94188
(415) 753-2832
mmatley@AOL.COM

The article, "*The History and Development of Laws Compelling Suspects to Provide Handwriting Exemplars.....*," in the Jan/Mar issue, was most interesting and showed a great deal of excellent research by the author. Enclosed is a list of case citations which address an aspect of the topic which the author did not address, obviously for the very good reason that it was not the specific aspect he was addressing. And that shows good judgement, focus and scholarly discipline in pursuing his subject.

However, I thought readers might be interested in a passing touch on what was outside the scope of the article. Unfortunately, I have only personally read one of these cases, *First Galesburg National Bank & Trust Co. V Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago et al.* I am sure that readers are quite aware that one does not rely on any legal citation without checking it out for oneself.

Required to Write While on Witness Stand

- [1] {Bronner v Loomis, 14 Hun (NY) 341 (1878)}
Party claiming forgery asked while on witness stand to write on cross-examination for comparison with disputed document. Held admissible.
- [2] {First Galesburg National Bank & Trust Co. V Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago et al., 295 IL Ap 524, 15 NE2 337 (1938)}
At 344 court ruled eight exemplar signatures were enough so that it was not error not to require witness write on cross. Circumstances between alleged time of signing two years previously and signing in court while on witness stand "were entirely different."
- [3] {King v State, 8 AL Ap 239, 62 S 374 (1913)}
Witness may not write exemplar at stand on direct but may be made to do so on cross. Admission of writer is sufficient proof of exemplar.
- [4] {State v McHenry, 207 IA 760, 223 NW 535 (1929)}
It is permissible to have defendant write exemplar on witness stand.
- [5] {U.S. v Doremus, 414 F2 252 (6 Cir KY 1969)}
Where defendant had voluntarily taken the stand, he could be compelled to write exact words of disputed document.
- [6] {U.S. v Mullaney, 32 F 370 (CC MO 1887)}
On the trial defendant took the stand voluntarily and was made to write exemplars. Upheld as not being made to incriminate himself.
- [7] {Williamson v King, 105 AR 697, 150 SW 395 (1912)}
Appeal court makes comparison of handwriting and confirms findings of trial court. Exemplars were signatures defendants were asked by judge to make while on stand.

Marcel B. Mately,
3092 Army Street,
P.O. Box 882401,

EDITORIAL

The Journal has received some negative feedback referring to the inclusion or review of certain scientific papers by unrecognized or "unacceptable" practitioners. One of the founding principles of the Journal has been to keep an open mind regarding research. Often articles are reviewed without disclosure of the author(s) name(s) or affiliations with the express purpose of an objective review. Good work can be found in many quarters and is not only present in the work of a chosen few

Further, the Journal represents the international state of forensic document examination. It cannot afford to show any bias toward one group, discipline or country. Our subscribers around the globe look to us for complete and honest appraisal of pertinent matters. We include "both sides of every story" in controversy. Should a particular person or group become offended, it is their choice, because there is no intention on our part to cause offense.

In this light, we ask our readers to step beyond provincial concerns and approach each issue as a possible broadening experience. If we can increase anyone's perspective even a small amount, we will consider it a successful endeavour.